

CITY OF CHICOPEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting September 4, 2019

Pursuant to Mass. General Law Ch. 131, Section 40 and the Chicopee Wetland Ordinance Ch. 272, the Chicopee Conservation Commission held a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 4, 2019** at 6:15 PM, RiverMills Senior Center, Classroom 30, 5 West Main St., Chicopee, MA 01020

Celeste Donovan opened the meeting at 6:15 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded and asked if anyone was recording the meeting to please state their name and address for the meeting record.

Conservation Commission attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
James Reidy, Chair			X
Jessica Dzwonkoski			X
Celeste Donovan	X		
Charles Payne	X		
Nicole Dewberry	X		
Sharon Balcom	X		

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director	X		
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		
Patrick McKenna, Assistant Planner			X
Nathan Moreau, Associate Planner			X

Item 1: (Continued from June 5, 19, July 17, August 7 and 21, 2019) NOI for site improvements including parking areas, access driveways, subsurface infiltration system, utilities and landscaping. Work will occur within Riverfront Area of the Chicopee River and Inland Resource Areas. Location: 63 ½ Main Street and 0 Main St. Applicant: Robert Libera, Chicopee Sports Center, Inc., 49 Fairfield Ave, Apt. 2, Chicopee, MA 01013

Notes: Representatives from the BETA Group, Inc. provided the Commission with an overview of the materials they distributed at the August 21, 2019 hearing as well as a detailed discussion about the project being a "Limited Project." Commissioner Donovan asked how would vegetation be able to establish itself in soils if they are as poor as described by the BETA representatives. BETA responded that new suitable soils were going to be brought to the site to establish the vegetation. The Commissioners discussed the project and imposed several Special Conditions with regard to the Riverfront Area on the site. The conditions included the following:

1. The Conservation Commission and/or Staff to complete an inspection of the site after two growing seasons to determine if at least 75% vegetation restoration has been achieved. If 75% restoration of vegetation has not been achieved then further work will be required of the Applicant to meet at least a 75% restoration.
2. Erosion Control to include straw wattles at the top of the slope.
3. Tree species in the Riverfront Area restoration area can include Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), American Elm Hybrids (*Ulmus americana* hybrids) and American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). No more than 30% of any one species.
4. Any existing trees 8" or larger in diameter are to be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. If any native non-invasive trees 8" or greater in diameter are able to be saved and remain in a healthy state they may be counted toward the ratio of the required number of trees within the Riverfront restoration area.
5. Removal of any invasive species on the project site.
6. Maintenance of invasive species on site shall be conducted annually and in perpetuity.
7. No snow storage is allowed in the Riverfront Area on the site.
8. Submit seed specifications for the restoration area within the Riverfront Area of the site. The seed specifications must

be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to installation.

9. Woody shrubs are to be included in the planting schedule. Species shall provide some benefit to wildlife.

The Commission also imposed conditions with regard to the Isolated Wetland which is jurisdictional under the local ordinance. Those conditions are as follows:

1. The Applicant to provide a conceptual layout of the replication areas of the Isolated Wetland to the Commission prior to construction.
2. An inspection of the completed replicated Isolated Wetland by the Commission or Staff after 2 years of growing seasons to determine if at least 75% restoration is achieved.
3. Applicant to provide a construction schedule and updates when necessary but not less than twice per year.
4. Applicant to provide adequate irrigation during dry weather to promote the establishment of vegetation in the wetland restoration area.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions with the conditions noted above was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Charles Payne. Vote was 3 in favor to 1 opposed to issue an Order of Conditions with the noted conditions..

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nicole Dewberry		X		
Sharon Balcom	X			

Item 2: Minutes from August 21, 2019

Notes: The Commissioners pointed out an amendment that needed to be made to the minutes. Staff acknowledged the error and noted it would be corrected prior to the minutes being filed with the City Clerk.

Motion to approve with the noted corrections was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 4-0 to approve the minutes with the noted amendment.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nicole Dewberry	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Item 3: SIGN BILLS!!

Notes: Staff presented one bill for the Commissioners to sign.

Item 4: Upcoming Project updates/Discussion

- Upcoming workshops – dates, presenters?

Notes: Staff briefed the Commission on project submissions for the next hearing agenda.

Item 5: Adjournment – Next scheduled meeting is September 18, 2019

Motion to adjourn was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Nicole Dewberry. Vote was 4-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nicole Dewberry	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.